

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 04103 261536Z

64

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04 OMB-01 AEC-11

DRC-01 /152 W

----- 001847

R 261410Z JUL 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6624

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 4103

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: AHG BRIEFING OF THE NAC JULY 26, 1974

REF: A) MBFR VIENNA 185; B) MBFR VIENNA 197; MBFR VIENNA 199

SUMMARY: AHG BRIEFED THE NAC JULY 26 ON MBFR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE THIRD ROUND, AND ON THE AHG REQUEST FOR NEW GUIDANCE. SYG LUNS AND THOSE PERMREPS WHO SPOKE CONSIDERED AHG REPORT EXCELLENT, AND PRAISED THE HIGH DEGREE OF ALLIED COORDINATION IN MBFR. UK AND BELGIUM REPS AS WELL AS LUNS NOTED THE NEED FOR WORK IN CAPITALS ON NATIONAL POSITIONS, AS WELL AS IN NATO, TO MEET AHG REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY

1. SYG LUNS BEGAN THE NAC DISCUSSION BY OBSERVING THAT ALTHOUGH MBFR HAS NOT PRODUCED SPECTACULAR RESULTS TO DATE, ALLIED COORDINATION HAS PROVED EFFECTIVE, AND THE ALLIES HAVE KEPT THE FOCUS ON THEIR OWN PROPOSALS RATHER THAN THOSE OF THE EAST. AMBASSADOR ADRIAEN-
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PAGE 02 NATO 04103 261536Z

SSEN THEN BRIEFED THE NAC ALONG THE LINES OF REFTTEL A.

2. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS BALANCE SHEET ON MBFR. HE WAS SATISFIED BY THIS BALANCE SHEET

BECAUSE THE WEST HAS MAINTAINED ITS BASICALLY STRONG POSITION AND HAD AVOIDED FALLING INTO THE EASTERN TRAP. HE AGREED WITH THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE FOCUS ON WESTERN POSITIONS, AND THEREFORE SUBSCRIBED FULLY TO THE AHG CONCLUSION IN PARA 31 (REF A) THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THEIR PROGRAM AT A DELIBERATE PACE.

3. CATALANO (ITALY) RECALLED THE ITALIAN POSITION REGARDING PARA 31 OF C-M(73)83, I.E. INCLUSION OF HUNGARY IN A NON-CIRCUMVENTION CLAUSE IS DESIRABLE, BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN ITALY SHOULD ALSO BE INCLUDED.

4. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) WONDERED IF SOME EASTERN REPRESENTATIVE WAS NOW MAKING A REPORT TO HIS CAPITAL SUGGESTING THAT THE WEST WAS ABOUT TO MAKE SOME MOVE TOWARDS THE EASTERN POSITION. HE OBSERVED THAT THE EAST CAN BE LESS CONCERNED ABOUT PUBLIC OPINION THAN THE ALLIES, AND THEREFORE MAY THINK THAT THEY HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME THAN WE DO. LUNS OBSERVED THAT IF SOME WESTERN GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO SACRIFICE PRINCIPLE IN ORDER TO GET EARLY RESULTS, WE WOULD BE IN DEEP WATER. ADRIAENSSEN SAID THAT THE EAST WAS NOT AS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AS IT PRETENDS. THE LINK BETWEEN PHASES HAS SHOWN THE EAST THERE IS A WAY TO GET ALL WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO REDUCE. LUNS THOUGHT THIS A GOOD TIME TO RECALL SOME OF THE RISKS IN MBFR OF WHICH THE ALLIES ARE WELL AWARE, I.E. THAT THE SOVIETS WANT TO SET ASIDE THE "BALANCE" PART OF MBFR, AND THAT WITHDRAWALS FOR THE WEST WILL MEAN MANY TROOPS SENT HOME, WHEREAS THE SOVIETS WILL STILL MAINTAIN THEIR FORCES NEARBY.

5. LOGAN (UK) SAID HE ASSUMED SPC WOULD BE ASSIGNED THE TASK OF DEVELOPING THE GUIDANCE THE AHG HAS REQUESTED. LOGAN STRESSED THAT THE REPLY TO AHG REQUEST IS NOT ONLY IN THE HANDS OF SPC BUT IN CAPITALS AS WELL. SPC CAN HELP FORM AND IDENTIFY NATIONAL POSITIONS, AND CAN REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NATIONAL POSITIONS TO THE POINT WHERE THEY CAN BE SENT TO THE NAC. WHEN NATIONAL POSITIONS ARE LACKING, SPC DISCUSSIONS STAGNATE. LUNS THOUGHT LOGAN'S COMMENTS PARTICULARLY RELATIVE TO PARAS 16 AND 17 OF SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 04103 261536Z

REFTEL C, WHICH RAISE THE NUCLEAR AND AIR MANPOWER QUESTIONS.

6. BUSCH (NORWAY) THOUGHT THE WEST HAD SHOWN FLEXIBILITY, WITHOUT CHANGING ITS BASIC POSITION. HE NOTED HOWEVER PARAS 26 AND 27 OF REF A, WHICH HIGHLIGHT SOVIET SUSPICION THAT SOME ALLIES MIGHT ESCAPE REDUCTIONS. THE WEST WILL HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THIS EASTERN CONCERN CAN BE MET.

7. DE STAERCKE WANTED TO STRESS THAT THE WEST HAS NOT GIVEN WAY ON ESSENTIALS. THE FUNDAMENTAL PART OF THE WESTERN POSITION IS THE COMMON CEILING. THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE PSYCHOLOGICALLY DEFENDABLE. DE STAERCKE AGREED WITH LOGAN ON THE NEED FOR POSITIONS FROM CAPITALS IN ORDER FOR NAC TO REPLY TO AHG

REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE. HE NOTED IN PARTICULAR THAT THE SPC HAS BEEN WAITING FOR MONTHS FOR A U.S. POSITION ON PARA 29 OF C-M(73)83.

8. SVART (DENMARK) SAID HIS EXPERIENCE IS THAT WHEN YOU DISCUSS A COMPLICATED QUESTION WITH THE SOVIETS, IT TAKES THEM A LONG TIME TO DECIDE THEIR OWN INTERESTS. THE U.S. HAS HAD THE SAME FINDING IN THE SALT TALKS. WE CAN ONLY INFLUENCE THE SOVIETS IF WE PRODUCE CREDIBLE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS THEY ARE ASKING.

9. LUNS SUGGESTED AND THE NAC AGREED THAT THE SPC WOULD WORK OUT A PROGRAM FOR DEALING WITH THE AHG REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE. RUMSFELD

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO04103
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740788/abbrywis.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) MBFR VIENNA 185; B) MBFR VIENNA 197; MBFR VIENNA 199
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jul-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: AHG BRIEFING OF THE NAC JULY 26, 1974
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO BONN
LONDON
MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005